His letter opens,"In regard to the matter in Memphis, I investigated and gave the information to Mr. James Earl Ray. I suggest that you ask him for that information." With this closing, I have quoted it in full,"As even, I remain, very truly yours," and his signature.

4/10/72

Mr. J.B.Stoner
P.O.Box 1211
Marietta, Ga. 30060

Dear Mr. Stoner,

Your letter of the 7th arrived unsealed today. That, in my opinion, makes it even more unwise.

I gave you my word through Jerry that I have no intention of fighting with you. What I said is you leave me alone, I leave you alone. That stands. So, please understand this letter is not intended as any kind of fight. I address the unwisdom I see in it and the great harm to James in your refusal to give me what more than a year ago he said you would have and I would get. I regard his life as in danger and I regard your refusal to pass these leads on to me as increasing that danger. I suggest that you consider whether you have not written what in the future, especially should there be any untoward developments, might cast suspicion on you.

You say, "I have investigated the Louisiana angle, found nothing and I have closed that avenue of investigation. I still know many people in Louisiana. I was advised to look elsewhere. There is no reason for any person to spin his wheels."

It simply is not possible for there to have been any investigation of the leads of which I know not to have produced some fact. What you may consider "nothing" others may not, and I do not think you should interpose your evaluation on everyone else. I have done an investigation of a magnitude you can't possibly have duplicated and you have no way of knowing what may or may not fit in with what I have. And I have spun my wheels many times. But not always, for some times, most often, in fact, they grip firmly. If I appreciate the seeming solicitude in keeping me from wasting time, I am willing to waste that time. I have wasted much on this case for which there is no possible return or reward. Numbers, accurate numbers, yield solid fact, not spinning wheels. They may produce the only life insurance James can now have. I can check them from here in less time than I have spent writing you about them.

If I intended you harm, your letter would provide all I need. But I intend you no harm. I seek only the truth, which is the only way of helping James and the rest of his family, all of whom are endangered by their relationship to him.

I strongly encourage you to consider what it means that a letter of this kind reached me open (especially immediately after one to Jerry from James was cut open and taped closed). One of the possibilities is interception. Do you think anyone in the government will read your letter as anything other than a confession of involvement, by you or by those you consider friends? And have you any idea of the investigation they have already conducted along precisely these lines? They even investigated Leander Perez in this connection, and others of whom I know. As I told you, I do not suspect you. Would I be writing you thus if I did? But you are now casting suspicion on yourself. I encourage you to rethink this and to rethink what it may cost James.

This is all inconsistent with what you told Jerry, that the only reason you would not tell me anything is because you were afraid I would use it against you. You have not only not told me anything but you have given me what I can but do not propose to use against you. At the very least you should be willing to consider the possibility that someone else may be able to find what you didn't or understand a set of fact other than you do. Please think this through. I think you have made a serious mistake, one that can hurt you. But I will not argue with you about this, will not press you for this information. Decision is yours.

Regretfully, Harold Weisberg